

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6957

INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

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AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

UNCLAS MEXICO 2760

C O R R E C T E D COPY E.O., TAGS, AND SUBJ LN OMITTED:

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MX, PN

SUBJECT: GOM SUPPORTS INITIATIVE BY VARIOUS PRESIDENTS ON
PANAMA CANAL

1. IN A LETTER DATED MARCH 27, PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA HAS
RESPONDED TO THE MARCH 24 LETTER SIGNED BY PRESIDENTS LOPEZ
MICHELSEN OF COLOMBIA, ODUBER OF COSTA RICA, AND PEREZ OF
VENEZUELA. TEXT OF ECHEVERRIA'S LETTER FOLLOWS.

2. BEGIN TEXT:

A. I HAVE RECEIVED THE COMMUNICATION OF THE 24TH
FROM PANAMA SIGNED BY YOU AND THE PRESIDENTS OF COSTA RICA
AND VENEZUELA.

B. I EXTEND TO ALL OF YOU MY CORDIAL CONGRATULATIONS
FOR YOUR NOBLE INITIATIVE ADDRESSED TO OUR PEOPLES AND
GOVERNMENTS SO THAT THEY MAY PROVIDE THEIR SUPPORT TO THE
LEGITIMATE ASPIRATIONS OF PANAMA ON THE QUESTION OF THE
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PANAMA CANAL. ASIDE FROM THE FRATERNAL GESTURE THAT THIS

REFLECTS IT IS ONE MORE STEP, AND A VERY SIGNIFICANT ONE, TOWARD LATIN AMERICAN INTEGRATION, FOR THE ACHIEVEMENT OF WHICH WE SHOULD ALSO UNITE OUR BEST EFFORTS.

C. MEXICO HAS ALWAYS CONSIDERED THAT THE PROMPT AND JUST SOLUTION OF THE CANAL PROBLEM IS NOT ONLY A BILATERAL QUESTION BETWEEN PANAMA AND THE UNITED STATES, BUT THAT IT INTERESTS AND SHOULD ATTRACT THE ATTENTION OF ALL SINCE THERE ARE INVOLVED PRINCIPLES OF RELEVANT IMPORTANCE, ESPECIALLY FOR OUR COUNTRIES, SUCH AS THE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY AND POLITICAL INDEPENDENCE OF STATES AND RESPECT FOR THE RIGHT TO EXPLOIT NATURAL RESOURCES IN ORDER TO CARRY FORWARD THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT OF THEIR POPULATIONS.

D. WHEN THE SECURITY COUNCIL MET IN PANAMA IN MARCH 1973, MEXICO RESPONDED TO THE INVITATION, PROMPTLY ATTENDED, AND EXPRESSLY DECLARED ITS SUPPORT AND SOLIDARITY FOR THE CAUSE OF THAT SISTER COUNTRY.

E. THE DECLARATION OF PANAMA SIGNED BY YOU THE 24TH OF THIS MONTH RECALLS THAT IN THE MEETINGS OF FOREIGN MINISTERS AT BOGOTA, TLATELOLCO AND WASHINGTON, THE QUESTION OF THE PANAMA CANAL WAS DELCARED TO BE OF COMMON INTEREST FOR LATIN AMERICA. IT WAS DURING THE PREPARATORY MEETING OF FOREIGN MINISTERS IN BOGOTA NOVEMBER 14-16, 1973 THAT IT WAS AGREED -- IN FACT, AT THE INSTANCE OF MEXICO -- TO EXAMINE DURING THE MEETING OF TLATELOLCO THE SUBJECT UNDER DISCUSSION, AND THIS IN FACT OCCURRED.

F. DURING THE WORKING TRIP WHICH I MADE TO VARIOUS SOUTH AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES LAST JULY, I ALWAYS RAISED THIS ISSUE WITH THE HEADS OF STATE AND OF GOVERNMENT WHOM I HAD THE PLEASURE TO VISIT, A CONCERN WHICH WAS EXPRESSLY REFERRED TO IN SOME OF THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE. IN THE RECENT VISIT OF PRESIDENT CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ TO MEXICO, WE BOTH MADE PERFECTLY CLEAR IN OUR JOINT DECLARATION THAT WE FULLY BACKED THE UNQUESTIONABLE RIGHT ENJOYED BY THE REPUBLIC OF PANAMA OVER THE CANAL SITUATED IN ITS TERRITORY AND WE REAFFIRMED OUR SUPPORT FOR THE PEOPLE AND UNCLASSIFIED

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GOVERNMENT OF THAT COUNTRY IN THEIR STRUGGLE TO REGAIN THEIR SOVEREIGN CONTROL.

G. THE DECIDED SUPPORT OF MEXICO FOR THIS CAUSE HAS BEEN REITERATED IN OTHER FORUMS, SUCH AS FOR EXAMPLE THE RECENT MINISTERIAL MEETING OF THE COORDINATION BUREAU OF THE NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES HELD IN HAVANA THIS MONTH. THE REPRESENTATIVE OF MEXICO POINTED OUT, IN SPEAKING OF

THE PROBLEMS OF LATIN AMERICA, THAT WE SHOULD GIVE VIGROUS SUPPORT TO THE REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT OF PANAMA IN ITS STRUGGLE TO RECOVER PART OF ITS TERRITORY THROUGH THE PROMPT CANCELLATION OF THE UNJUST TREATY OF 1903; (HE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT) WE SHOULD REMAIN EVER ALERT AGAINST ANY PRESSURE OR INTERVENTION WHICH PANAMA MIGHT INCUR IN THIS CONTEXT.

H. FROM THE FOREGOING YOU CAN UNDERSTAND THE PERMANENT INTEREST ON THE PART OF MEXICO IN THE CANAL ISSUE AND THUS I RECEIVE WITH THE GREATEST OF ENTHUSIASM YOUR PROPOSAL THAT WE SHOULD COORDINATE OUR ACTION IN SUPPORT OF PANAMA AND ASK THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES TO PROVIDE A PROMPT RESOLUTION TO THIS PROBLEM. (COMPLIMENTARY CLOSE). END TEXT.
JOVA

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